

# K. James's Commission, TO HIS SHIP PRIVATEER S.

To Ravage, Plunder, Burn, Sink, and Destroy all the  
Ships and Goods of the People of England, Scotland, and  
Ireland.

With Remarks thereupon.

James, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, and Ire-  
land, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To Our Trusty  
and Well-Beloved, Captain Patrick Lambert.

**K**NOW YE, That we Resolving Special Trust in your Approven Fidelity and  
Valour have Assigned, Constituted and Appointed you Commander of the  
Good Frigate called the Providence; and further, We give you full Power and  
Authority to enter into any Port or River of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ire-  
land, or any Territories thereunto belonging, and either there or at Sea, to take  
and apprehend, and in case of any Opposition of Resistance, to Sink, Burn, or other-  
wise Destroy all Ships and Vessels together with their Goods, Lading, and Merchan-  
dises belonging to the Subjects of England, Scotland and Ireland, or either of them,  
together with the Ships, Goods, and Merchandises of the States of the United Pro-  
vinces of the Netherlands, and to bring and send up all such Ships and Goods as  
they shall take into some Port of France, and to practice the same to be attached law-  
ful Prize in the next Court of Admiralty, established by our Dear Brother the most  
Christian King. And the Tenth and other Duties falling out of the said Prize are to be  
paid to Thomas Stratford, or in his absence to John Thompson or to such other  
Persons as may have Authority from us to receive the same.

Given at Our Court at the Castle of London, the 10th day of June, 1692.

By the said King's Command, Sir John Mordaunt, Secretary of State.

## REMARKS

**T**HE Passions and Affections of  
some People are so unreason-  
able, that it puzzles them  
on to conceive how much  
Zeal can arise from so undeserving a Sub-  
ject of their Veneration. For instance,  
not to Treat untenderly with on the Ru-  
ines of Majesty, nor take up Royal Mis-  
carriages, to make Reflections on Great-  
ness in Distress: The Publication of this  
following Commission, of the late King  
James, is not so much intended, as an In-  
vective on that unhappy Prince, as to ex-  
press our Admiration at the unfathomable  
Extravagancies of some over-bigotted  
Zealots in his Favour.

It is not all possible that in the common  
Ambition of degraded Priests, how just-  
ly so ever Detested, to endeavour their  
own Advancement. There is a Chance in  
this Commission, an extraordinary Religi-  
on, that can quit the Pretences to Ri-  
tles so Great, though never so deserv-  
ingly Forfeited. We do not therefore at all  
wonder at the Irish and French Army, pre-  
pared for his once intended Descent and  
Invasion of England; nor the early Naval  
Preparations of the French on that Occa-  
sion. Such an Expedition on so important  
an Attempt, carried some little Face of  
Glory in it. His very Enemies could not  
deny but such an Enterprize had been an  
Ambition

ceeded, he might fairly have written himself *James the Conqueror*. But Gentlemen, so bold and valiant Achievements, in the Universal Standard of Honour, carry a great Name; and which true Greatness, possibly, has no occasion to be assumed of. Nevertheless, there may be those poorer Designs, that instead of being either Great or Glorious, perhaps may carry the vilest and most abject Face, that a man less Character than King *James* ought to blush at. As for Example, the foregoing Commission.

There you'll find more of a more wanton Ambition of recovering Three Kingdoms, he poorly descends to grant his Commissions to Privateers to Kill and Spoil all the Subjects of England, Scotland and Ireland, indifferently to Burn, Sink and Fire their Vessels, &c. and all this without respect of Persons, Interests or Religion. The severest Romanist, or most violent Jacobite (without exception) is to be wept in the common Doom. So that instead of pretending all his former promis'd Liberty and Tenderness to the People of England, or instead of bravely grappling at his Royal Rival in the Imperial Seat, he vildly fumes little less than a common Pirate. Authorizes the Depredations of the English Merchants even by the very hands of Englishmen. This last poor spirited Measure must either plainly tell us, that he has already renounced all hopes of recovery of his Kingdoms; and so under that Despair he resolves to play at a small Game rather than stand out, (which indeed is the best Title I can give it) and consequently (like the Famous *Dionysius* fumed Pedagogue) when he can scourge Kingdom no longer, he prepares his lesser Rods for a more humble Tyrannick Lash, or else that forgetting that he ever was a Monarch, and therefore blushing at nothing though never so Unprincely, he content himself with being under Secretary to the French King, whilst the little *James* is but a Subscription to the Order of the *St. Esprit*. The French King deposes him of his *Emancipation* to Copy Commissions

for him; and the Contented Receiver of that high Favour is paid to officiate in the Trust. It was remark of him, that at his first departure from England upon his Transport from *Faversham*, he uttered this Expression. *That he had rather be a Captain of a Troop of Light Horse under the French King, than Range King of England under the Lash and Control of Parliaments.* A Captain of a Troop of Horse is an over high Post. But truly of the two is much the more Honourable than the granting of such Commissions. But indeed all these tend to the aggrandizing of the French King; the poorer the Subjects of England, the stronger the Grand *Lewis*; his inviolable Zeal and Fidelity, therefore to that most Christian (so titled) *Nero*, supercedes all other Considerations, and (*fas aut nefas*) right or wrong, honourable or infamous, nothing comes amiss that carries the least shadow of service to that darling Idol.

One thing is very Remarkable in the *James* Faces of King *James's* Pretences. This very Commission found on Board one of the late Prizes, was dated at *St. Germains*, the 22d of February; which (pray observe) bearing date before his intended Invasion, impours this Privateer to enter into any Port or River of England, Scotland, or Ireland; and commit all those Hostilities of Firing, Sinking, Burning, &c. All Trader Vessels whatever; at the same time that his Declaration, prepared for his Reception in England, intimated all the Affection and Tenderness imaginable to the Interests Property, and what not, of his Subjects of England, viz. That he was coming only to recover his own Right, Establish and Restore their Laws and Liberties; and yet at the same time he gave out Commissions to Waste, Ruine, and Destroy the most innocent Traders of the Kingdom, possibly no ways interested in the Titles, and Disputes of Princes, in Parties or Causes; but on the contrary only endeavouring a peaceable Acquisition of their Dread, by their Honest Commerce and Industry.

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